Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00655 161434Z

46
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 INT-05 GSA-01 EA-06 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 DRC-01 /093 W
---------- 009194
R 161400Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4512
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0655

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN, EINV, ETRD, BY
SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION ON BURUNDI MINERALS DISCOVERIES

REF: BUJUMBURA 548 (NOTAL)

1. MEMBER OF U.N. MINERALS SURVEY TEAM HAS TOLD US THAT BURUNDI'S MINERAL PROSPECTS ARE CONTINUALLY BECOMING SURER AS EXPLORATION PROCEEDS. RECENT SAMPLING INDICATES THAT THE NICKEL ORES HERETOFORE LISTED AS ONLY "PROBABLE" AND "POSSIBLE" ARE LIKELY TO PAN OUT IN THE "PROVEN" CATEGORY. (THIS WOULD TRIPLE OR QUADRUPLE THE ESTIMATED FIVE BILLION DOLLAR VALUE OF NICKEL IN PROVENT RESERVES REPORTED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00655 161434Z

REFTEL.) MOREOVER. ADDITIONAL NICKEL AREAS ARE TURNING UP (THOUGH

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THEY MAY BCSSMALL, AND NEWLY ACQUIRED LARGE RIG IS JUST STARTING ITS DRILLING TO GET TO SUSPECTED ORE BODIES (WHICH WOULD BE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF NICKEL) AT DEPTHS OF SEVERAL THOUSAND FEET. OUR INFORMANT ADDS THAT PLATINUM, ANTIMONY, COPPER, AND GOLD ARE CONTINUING TO TURN UP IN QUATITIES WHICH MAY ONE DAY BE EXPLOITABLE BY THEMSELVES, BUT WHICH SHOULD CERTAINLY BE PROFITABLE IF MINED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NICKEL PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE. URANIM HAS ALSO BEEN FOUND, BUT EXTENT OF DEPOSITS IS STILL UNCERTAIN. ON OTHER HAND, THORIUM DEPOSITS ARE SAID TO BE QUITE EXTENSIVE AND CERTAINLY EXPLOITABLE.

2. WE ARE ALSO TOLD THAT WITH GROWTH OF MINERAL PROSPECTS, BURUNDI GOVERNMENT IS BECOMING MORE SECRETIVE ABOUT INFORMATION AND MORE RESTRICTIVE ON ACCESS. FOR EXAMPLE, MEMBERS OF ANALOGOUS U.N. MINERALS TEAM PP RWANDA WHO RECENTLY CAME TO BURUNDI TO VISIT SITES OF DISCOVERY WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE BUJUMBURA. ANY UNFAMILIAR EUROPEAN FACE IS IMMEDIATELY CHALLENGED BY BURUNDI OFFICIALS AT DEPOSITS, AND THERE IS NO INDICATION WHEN GRB WILL ALLOW PUBLICATION OF U.N. SURVEY REPORT COMPLETED AT END OF AUGUST.HOW-EVER,
FIVE ROMANIAN EXPERTS WHO ARRIVED HERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITHOUT SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT

EXCEPT "TO HELP OUT" ARE NOW IN THE FIELD AND ALLOWED TO COLLABORATE WITH THE U.N. TEAM.

3. MANAGER OF LOCAL BRANCH OF DANISH EAST ASIATIC COMPANY TELLS US THAT
HIS OFFICE IS NOW GETTING NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPEAN ABOUT SALES, TRADE AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN BURUNDI.

THERE ARE EVEN SOME ENTIRELY UNCONFIRMED RUMORS THAT CHINESE MAY PARTICIPATE SOMEHOW IN PROJECT, FOR EXAMPLE, BY UNDERTAKING RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION WITH LABORERS WHO WILL BE FREED FROM TANZAM PROJECT. WHEN I QUESTIONED PRC AMBASSADOR TODAY ABOUT MODALITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NICKEL MINES, HE ONLY SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD ROMANIA MIGHT UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT. FRENCH MAY BE ANOTHER PARTY SHOWING QUICKENED INTEREST, SINCE OUR MINERALS TEAM SOURCE SAYS THAT ROBERT BONIN, CHIEF OF FRENCH MINERALOGICAL LABORATORY IN FONTAINEBLEAU (BUJUMBURA A-87), HAD LONG CONVERSATIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

WITH TEAM MEMBERS BEFORE HE LEFT BURUNDI, AND THAT BONIN'S QUESTIONS WERE EXTREMELY INCISIVE ON QUESTIONS OF EXPLOITATION AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DRAFTING OF NEW MINING LAW, HIS OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR SOJOURN OF THREE MONTHS HERE.
MARK

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINING, NICKEL, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES), MINERAL RESERVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUJUMB00655
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740294-0597
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741044/aaaablmz.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUJUMBURA 548 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER INFORMATION ON BURUNDI MINERALS DISCOVERIES
TAGS: EMIN, EINV, ETRD, BY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005